

The embodiments of the invention in which an exclusive property or privilege is claimed are defined as follows:

1. A computer implemented method of positioning a graphical component in a display, the method comprising:

determining collinear lines for a first graphical component;

detecting the movement of an edge of a second graphical component;

determining when said edge of the second graphical component is moved within a predetermined distance of one of said collinear lines of said first graphical component; and

automatically aligning said edge of said second graphical component with said one of said collinear lines of said first graphical component.

2. The method of Claim 1, wherein said first graphical component is a polygonal component.

3. The method of Claim 1, wherein said first graphical component has a shape selected from the group consisting of triangle, quadrilateral, pentagon, hexagon, septagon, octagon, nonagon, and decagon shapes.

4. The method of Claim 1, wherein automatically moving said edge of said second graphical component comprises moving said first display component.

5. The method of Claim 1, wherein said second graphical component is resized.

6. The method of Claim 5, further comprising receiving an indication to resize said first display component until said edge of said first display component is within said predetermined distance of one of said lines collinear to an edge of said second display component.

7. The method of Claim 1, wherein said predetermined distance is uniform along said collinear line.

8. The method of Claim 1, wherein said predetermined distance is gradated along said collinear line.

9. The method of Claim 8, wherein said gradated predetermined distance varies according to the proximity of said first graphical component to said second graphical component.

10. The method of Claim 9, wherein said proximity is measured in pixels.

11. The method of Claim 9, wherein said proximity is measured in display regions.

12. The method of Claim 1, wherein said predetermined distance varies according to a predefined relationship between said first graphical component and said second graphical component.

13. The method of Claim 12, wherein said predetermined relationship is determined from the type of graphical components forming said first and second graphical components.

14. The method of Claim 12, wherein said predetermined relationship is determined from the contents of said first and said second graphical components.

15. The method of Claim 1, further comprising receiving an indication to reposition said first display component until said edge of said first display is within said predetermined distance of one of said lines collinear to an edge of said second display component.

16. A computer readable media containing computer executable instructions for performing the method of any of Claims 1-15.

17. A computer apparatus having a processor and a memory storing computer executable instructions operative to perform the method of any of Claims 1-15.

18. A graphical user interface of a computer with relative snapping positioning of windows, the graphical user interface comprising:

a first window in a computer display;

a second window in said computer display;

automatically determined lines collinear to edges of said second window; and

automatically moving an edge of said first window to one of said automatically determined lines when said edge of said first window is within a predetermined distance of said one of said automatically determined lines.

19. The graphical user interface of Claim 18, wherein automatically moving said edge of said first display component comprises moving said first window.

20. The graphical user interface of Claim 18, wherein automatically moving said edge of said first display component comprises resizing said first window.